

Message Text

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63

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 L-02 SP-02 INR-07 SIL-01

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:RAHOLMES:CED

APPROVED BY EA -LEEDMOND

EA/PRCM:OVARMSSTRONG

EB/ITP/OT/GCP:DMORRISON (DRAFT)

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P 070029Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051230

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD HK US

SUBJECT: GSP -- HONG KONG

REF: A) HK 2289; B) STATE 47635

1. QUESTION CONCERNING SINGAPORE RAISED IN REFTEL A IS LOGICAL ONE. IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG CONTINUE TO BE MUCH GREATER (NEARLY THREE TIMES) ABSOLUTELY THAN IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE AND BENEFICIARY STATUS FOR HONG KONG IS PERCEIVED AS GREATER THREAT BY LABOR AND INDUSTRY THAN SIMILAR STATUS FOR SINGAPORE. UNFORTUNATELY, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS ARGUMENT WILL HELP YOU WITH THE PRESS AND WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY OTHER PERSUASIVE ARGUMENTS.

2. WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE, QUESTION OF SINGAPORE CAN BEST BE DUCKED IN CONTEXT OF PRESS GUIDANCE IN REFTEL B BY EMPHASIZING PRELIMINARY NATURE OF A LIST, BY POINTING OUT
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THAT HONG KONG HAS NOT BEEN EXCLUDED FROM POSSIBLE GSP

TREATMENT BY PLACEMENT ON B LIST, AND BY STATING THAT TOO MUCH SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD NOT BE ATTACHED TO ABSENCE AT THIS TIME OF HONG KONG FROM A LIST.

3. BELIEVE HKG AND PRESS REACTIONS INCLUDING, WHERE APPROPRIATE IN FUTURE REPORTING, ARGUMENTS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY STADIS CHANNEL CAN USEFULLY BE REPORTED THROUGH NORMAL DISTRIBUTION.
INGERSOLL

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